



NDF WORKSHOP
WG 5 – Mammals
CASE STUDY 1 SUMMARY
Panthera leo
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NON-DETRIMENT REPORT UNDER CITES REGARDING THE EXPORT OF AFRICAN LIONS *PANTHERA LEO* FROM THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

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The African lion *Panthera leo* is one of Africa's most wide spread large carnivore species, found in 34 range countries and with a continental range covering approximately 3 million km² of gazetted and ungazetted open wild rangelands. East Africa holds approximately 40% of the lion range while 35%, 22% and 4% fall within Southern Africa, Central and West Africa respectively. In these prime habitats, lions live gregariously in stable social groups called "prides" that comprise of 2-30 individuals. Prides occupy territories of varying sizes (5-400 km²) that are evenly distributed within ecosystems (mostly protected) and with ecological roles as top predators and keystone species that help regulate and maintain large herbivore populations in balance with nature. Precise global population numbers of lions are not known but it is evident that fewer survive today in the wild as records indicate continuous decline due to range contraction (30-50% habitat loss in the last 2 decades). Available figures on global population numbers put recent estimates in the range of 16,500 – 47,000. The African lion is currently listed as *vulnerable* by the IUCN and its trade is regulated pursuant to its listing from trade under Appendix II of Convention for the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Tanzania is home to an estimated minimum number of 18,215 lions, owing to its extensive network of Protected Areas (PAs) and undisturbed wild rangelands. Lions are protected throughout the country, as part of the countries biodiversity. Inside PAs, there are managed within the context of the ecological systems in which they occur under General Management Plans (GMP). However, outside the PA network persecution by humans through PAC and habitat loss presents significant threats to their persistence as a species. In wildlife PAs categories e.g. Game Reserves, Game controlled Areas, Open Areas/WMMAs, lions are utilized consumptively through *tourist hunting*. Harvesting is restricted to adult males and records from 2000-7 show approximately 320 lion quotas were issued annually leading to the harvesting of 1.4-12.3% (average 6 %) of the male population. Harvesting is strictly administered under a national quota system set and controlled by the Director of Wildlife. Quotas are not set scientifically, but are rather determined by adaptive management approaches based on cumulative experiences of wildlife managers using several non-detriment verifiable indicators (population abundance estimates,

trophy quality, age, offtake levels etc.). The Wildlife Division sets and distributes all lion quotas to all hunting concessions/outfitters on an annual basis- prior to commencement of hunting season. In return, at the end of every hunting season the hunting companies are obliged to submit their hunting returns to the Wildlife Division. Records are then kept on annual quotas and annual returns for all hunted species annually. We gathered both sets of data for lions on all hunting companies between 2000-7. Standard linear regression analyses were conducted to determine positive/negative relationships between present quotas and harvest levels. To better evaluate the impacts, this analysis was scaled down to ecosystem levels where a total of 6 lion populations (in 5 ecosystems) were assessed. These findings suggest current harvest levels have had no-detriment effects to the lion population in Tanzania over the 2000-7 period. In conclusion, the requirements for a non-detriment finding are met with the management regime put in place by the Wildlife Division.